

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 943

By DeBerry L

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Representative Gary Rowe of Memphis.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the sudden passing of our friend and colleague Gary Rowe, who proudly and ably served as a member of the House of Representatives; and

WHEREAS, a member of the 104th and 105th Tennessee General Assemblies, Representative Gary Rowe was an exemplary and conscientious public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens, especially his constituents in the 87th House District; and

WHEREAS, an accomplished businessman, Mr. Rowe was President and General Partner of Memphis Business Development Corporation (MBDC), President of Black United Fund of Tennessee, Incorporated (BUF), and Chairman of Minority Enterprise Development (MED); and

WHEREAS, a graduate of LeMoyne-Owen College with a degree in Business Administration, Gary Rowe was actively involved in enhancing economic development in the greater Memphis area and West Tennessee through his efforts as Chairman of the Economic Development Task Forces: West Tennessee Committee on African-American Males, President and board member of the Greater Memphis African-American Tourism and Convention Commission, and organizer and member of the Business Assistance Consortium; and

WHEREAS, wholly dedicated to his community, Representative Gary Rowe was a member of Memphis 2000 Task Force, board member of Midtown Mental Health Center, Inc., and board member of the Blues City Cultural Center; and

WHEREAS, humbly offering himself as a candidate to serve the good people of Memphis and Shelby County, Gary Rowe won election to the House of Representatives in 2005

during a special election, and with a resounding vote, won election to a full term in November of 2006; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure as a member of the House of Representatives, Gary Rowe served as a key member of the Commerce Committee, the Children and Family Affairs Committee, the Utilities, Banking and Small Business Subcommittee, and the Domestic Relations Subcommittee, and as Secretary of the Government Operations Committee; and

WHEREAS, a devoted family man, Mr. Rowe is survived by his beloved wife, Diane, and his two treasured children, Gary, Jr., and Gabrielle; and

WHEREAS, greatly respected and deeply admired by his many friends and colleagues, Mr. Rowe was a kind and thoughtful gentleman who loved Tennessee and took great pride in making his community and State a better place for all; his unmatched record in public service and business stands as a monument to a life well lived; and

WHEREAS, Gary Rowe leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of our colleague, Representative Gary Rowe, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character as a legislator, public servant, and human being, and commend his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Representative Rowe.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.